



Violence Prevention

Phone: 515-242-6514

http://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/sv_prevention

Protecting & Improving
the Health of Iowans



In October 2016, University of Northern Iowa's Center for Violence Prevention (UNI CVP) hosted a Mentors in Violence Prevention Leadership Summit. The summit was attended by 320 students and 14 school districts from across Iowa were represented. These students came together to learn how to recognize warning signs of teen dating violence and learn new skills to intervene with peers to interrupt violence and promote student safety. MVP is an internationally-recognized program that builds student leadership skills. The schools in Iowa that have adopted this program report fewer incidents of violence and referrals for discipline as students use their skills to intervene with their peers.

MVP is one of the prevention strategies that IDPH promotes to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors related to interpersonal violence. This bystander approach provides participants with options for how to respond when they witness violence or abuse. People are more likely to respond and not remain silent, and therefore complicit, in violence or abuse by others when they're provided with options other than physically intervening or doing nothing.

Did you know?

Sexual violence in Iowa cost an estimated \$5.8 billion in fiscal year 2009, or \$1,875 per resident, yet less than 1% of money spent as a result of sexual violence in Iowa goes towards funding prevention efforts. Prevention is a wise investment, as it can reduce the likelihood those exposed to interpersonal violence will experience depression, substance abuse, or other health problems later in life.

Why is Violence Prevention important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- An average of 19 Iowans die each year due to domestic violence homicides or suicides.
- Since 1995, 27 children were killed in domestic abuse murders and another 82 children were present at the scene when a murder occurred.
- 1 in 5 Iowa women will experience physical violence by an intimate partner and 1 in 10 will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. Men also experience this, but at much lower rates.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as abuse, neglect, substance abuse in the home or a caregiver with mental illness can lead to poor health and social outcomes across the lifespan. The CDC estimates that having an ACEs score of 6 or more can reduce life expectancy by an average of 20 years. 56% of Iowa adults reported experiencing at least one ACE and 14.5% reported four or more.
- Research has shown that preventing the first act of sexual or domestic violence can stop the cycle of violence that often occurs in families and high-risk populations like women and low-income Iowans.
- Public health methods are effective in preventing violence through community involvement, education, and changing social norms that support violence.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Prevent injuries & violence

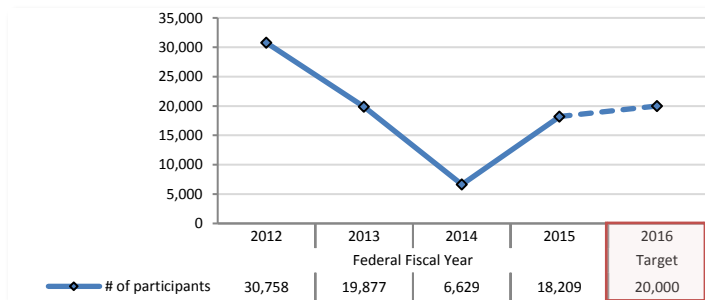
Promote healthy living

What do we do?

- Analyze violence data (including domestic abuse homicides and suicides) and release reports on violence prevention issues.
- Provide training and technical assistance to identify, assess, intervene, report, and document domestic violence and sexual assault for healthcare providers and other community professionals.
- Coordinate public information campaigns to change social beliefs that contribute to violence.
- Provide funding, training, and technical assistance for targeted prevention strategies aimed at community professionals, organizations, and communities.
- Make recommendations to state officials, agencies, and community leaders on how to prevent violence.

How do we measure our progress?

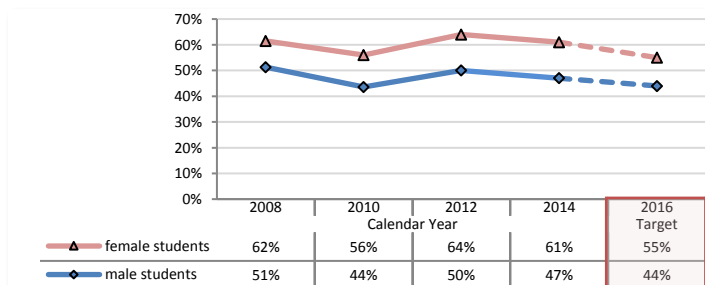
1 Number of students and professionals participating in sexual and domestic violence prevention programs.



Data Source: Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Data are available annually. 2014 data is 6-months only.

How are we doing? Decreases in state and federal sources of funds have changed the number of programs funded and the way people are reached through prevention programming. Fewer people are reached by more frequent exposure for more long-term impact.

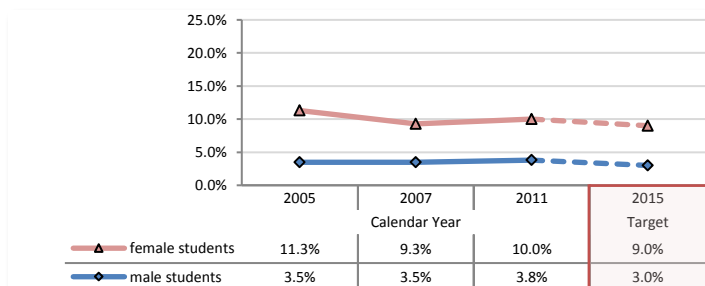
2 Percent of Iowa students (grades 6, 8, & 11) who report experience with being bullied.



Data Source: Iowa Youth Survey. Data are available every two years.

How are we doing? Rates of bullying that increased in 2010 are beginning to decline. Female students are more likely than male students to report being bullied.

3 Percent of Iowa 9-12 grade students who report they were ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.



Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Data are available every two years. Insufficient statewide response rate for 2013 & 2015. Next data reported in 2017 and available in 2018

How are we doing? There was a slight decrease in 2007 but an increase again in 2011. Iowa's rates are lower than the national average.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Be an active [bystander](#) when you see someone bullying, harassing, or hurting another person. Support the person who is the target of the violence, and take a stand against violence.
2. Build caring connections within your community. Studies have shown that communities with higher rates of community support and connectedness have lower rates of child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, youth violence, suicide, and elder maltreatment. For more info, go to [Connecting the Dots](#) from the CDC.
3. Healthcare professionals can routinely screen for violence during patient visits, properly document findings, and refer patients for help when abuse is found. The Violence program offers training for healthcare professionals. For more information, go to [Health Care Response to Violence Against Women](#).
4. Community professionals can take steps to reduce risk factors for violence and promote strategies to reduce it. To learn more, go to Sexual Violence Prevention.
5. Find opportunities to get involved in awareness month campaigns. Opportunities include [Teen DV Month](#) in February, [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), [Sexual Assault Prevention Month](#), and [National Youth Violence Prevention Week](#) in April, [National Campus Safety Awareness Month](#) in September, and [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#) in October.
6. Contact the [Iowa Domestic Violence Helpline](#) at 1-800-770-1650 or the [Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline](#) at 1-800-284-7821 if you or someone you care about is in need of support and referral.

Expenditures

General fund, federal funds, & intra state receipts*: K19-1965; 0153-1752/1756/1758.

	State Fiscal Year 2015 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Estimate
State funds	\$203,032	\$203,032	\$203,032
Federal funds	\$347,572	\$564,671	\$608,676
Other funds*	\$85,694	\$49,605	\$184,405
Total funds	\$636,298	\$817,308	\$996,113
FTEs	1.05	0.94	1.75

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.